

the ball of his thumb and rubbed the toe, and fell to work with renewed vigor. When he had finally completed his task both shoes were polished to the highest degree of perfection, and the boy eyed them with all the pride and sense of triumph of an artist who had succeeded in painting a wonderful picture. He seemed quite indifferent to the ten cents I paid him for his work, and his eyes were still on my shining shoes as he slipped the money into his pocket.

I could not help noting his right and just pride in his perfected work, and I said, encouraging and approvingly:

"You certainly do good work my boy."

"Yes, sah," he replied. "I loves to make 'em shine right up to de handle."

Now this poor black boy had in him a strong element of success in life combined with a high ideal. His ambition to make the shoes of his patrons "shine right up to de handle" was a worthy ambition as that of the artist who spends his life in the endeavor to paint a great picture. The boy's highest reward was not in the money I had paid him; it was in the beautiful perfection of his work.

I felt interested in the boy who could take such pride in his humble occupation, and I said to him:

"I suppose that some day you will be having a bootblackening establishment of your own."

"Yes, sah," he said, "I is aimin' at dat very thing, sah; an' when I gits hit, hit'll be a place whar all de gemmen kin git de bes' shine in de city. Dat's what I is wurkin' fo' sah."

If was, after all, a high ambition because it was an eager striving for perfection in one's work. It was a higher ambition than that of the boy who longs to acquire great wealth for wealth's sake alone. I do not think that I shall ever forget that little black boy and his swelling pride in doing the very best work it was possible for him to do. He will rise to the full height of his calling, and that is all that God expects any of us to do.

Courtesy to Children

Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

Kindness and consideration play a most important and salutary part in the up-bringing of children. The little ones brought up in an atmosphere of kindness are much more easily governed than those living in other surroundings. Kindness begets content, cheerfulness, trustfulness and confidence; unkindness invites revolt, ill-will, fretfulness, hostility and deceit. Permanent impressions of good or ill are left on the character of children by the treatment they receive at the hands of those having their training in charge.

A writer points out that great injury is often done children, not alone in the matter of their present happiness, but in regard of their future character and conduct, by want of politeness in their treatment by their

elders. Children who refuse to yield to government by kindness are extremely rare, and those whose dispositions, character and happiness are not wrecked by senseless, continuous unkindness quite as much so.

Parents and educators cannot be too careful in keeping this obvious truth constantly in view. No one, even in the most advanced years, forgets the kindness received in youth. The mother's gentle persuasion, the father's kindly counsel, the teacher's friendly interest are remembered till the very last hour of life, and form one of the brightest of memory's dearest treasures.

How to Keep Your Friends

"The less you exact of your friends, the more they will give you," writes Helen Waterson Moody of "The First Tragedy in a Girl's Life," in the April Ladies' Home Journal. "For yourself give as richly and as nobly as you want to—of your love and your confidence and your loyalty. Live up to your highest ideal of what a friend should be, (and the higher you make that ideal the finer woman you will be, and the more friends will flock to you,) but never exact of your friends that they shall give you more than they choose easily to give. If some one you love disappoints you, and as many, many more will do in days to come, do not hold up your ideal of what they should be and do as a mirror in which to count their imperfections. Let it pass, if you can, with a little smile that may be sad, but need not be at all satirical. And never be jealous of a friend if you want to keep one. If anybody you are fond of forms other friendships or seems to be engrossed with other friends, do not let it make you unhappy, and, above all, never offer comment upon her all too evident neglect of her old friends for her new ones."

Ruled by Habit

Exchange.

Three incidents illustrating the force of habit are told in the Baptist Union.

A traveling man was dining with a friend in one of our suburbs. When the steaming cup of coffee was placed by his side he took up his spoon and wiped it on his napkin, to the dismay of the model housewife. It immediately dawned upon him that he had been very rude. He apologized in the words, "I beg pardon; I am so used to doing this in a hotel that from force of habit I unconsciously did it here."

A minister was seated in the library of a home where the housewife was scrupulously neat. He picked up one of the books from the table and attempted to blow off the dust from the edge. His "beg pardon" was, "I am so accustomed to blow off dust from my books."

A young lad was invited to dine with a school friend in one of the uptown mansions. During the meal he occasionally used his napkin, but awkwardly, for he was not used

to it. After the last course, as he was rising from the table, his friend noticed that the guest drew his coat sleeve across his mouth. Here apology was not made, for force of habit was beneath consciousness, and to this day the young man is ignorant of his breach of good table manners.

Probably most of us could relate more or less mortifying experiences of the same kind. Which goes to show that since we are held in unconscious bondage by our habits, it is best to have those habits good ones.

Our Young People

ENEMIES AND ARMS—Eph. 6:10-18

Topic for August 11.

Nowhere does the Bible represent the Christian life as a paradise of idleness. Nowhere does it promise indolent peace as the reward of faith. It presents the world as a field with the exhortation "Go work today in my vineyard." It pictures life as a race and bids us "lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us and run with patience the race that is set before us." It shows us that life is a battle and calls us to "fight the good fight of faith" and for this purpose to take to ourselves the whole armor of God.

Now a wise general on going into battle first sits down to take account to see if he "be able with 10,000 to meet him that cometh against him with 20,000." (Luke 14:21, 22)

This is our work in this lesson. Let us know our enemies and our arms that we may be the better prepared for the life-long conflict against the evil.

SCRIPTURE HELP

Enemies

- 1 Our enemies are spiritual. Eph. 6:12; I Thess. 2:18.
- 2 They operate in the darkness of error. Jude 6; Luke 22:53; Eph. 5:11.
- 3 They are limited and may be over-come. II Cor. 2:11; James 4:7.
- 4 Some of their works.
Unbelief, II Cor. 4:4.
Making evil appear good, II Cor. 11:14, 15.
Disobedience, Eph. 2:1-3.
Worldly lusts, Col. 3:3-5.
- 5 How recognized, James 1:13, 14; Gal. 5:19-22.

Arms

- 1 Our weapons are spiritual, II Cor. 10:4. Let some one describe each piece of armor mentioned and show the application.
- 2 Loins girt with truth, Eph. 6:14. How does truth help us in our battle? John 8:32.
- 3 Breastplate of righteousness, Eph. 6:14. How does righteousness protect us? I Pet. 3:13
- 4 Feet shod with peace, Eph. 6:15. What does it mean to be shod with peace? Rom. 10:15.
- 6 Helmet of salvation, Eph. 6:17. How is salvation as a helmet?
- 6 The sword of the Spirit, Eph. 6:17. How did Jesus use this weapon? (Study Luke 4:1-12.) Note that there is only one offensive weapon—the sword—Why? Why is there no armor for the back?

Christ is All

With his mind we are full-armed, I Pet. 4:1.
In him we have salvation, Col. 1:14.
Thru him righteousness, Rom. 10:4.
And faith, Gal. 2:20.
And truth, John 14:6.
And the word, John 14:10.
Therefore put on Christ, Rom. 13:14.